

## CoCoRaHS

It's been an **OUTSTANDING** year and all the thanks goes to you - the observers! Without your involvement there would be no program, all the rain falling today would not be as well documented. Forecasters, TV meteorologists, climatologists, and researchers would be missing a priceless wealth of information without you. In honor of the one year anniversary of CoCoRaHS, I've asked an observer to write this month's eNewsletter: Dale Eubanks Redbank 3.4NNE. Dale offers a unique viewpoint and I'll let him introduce himself.

### **The absolute value of accurate and timely precipitation observations:**

**My career in meteorology began in the Air Force Air Weather Service in 1955 in the Observer program. I learned at a young age the importance of reporting the weather on schedule and accurately. If you were making cloud heights and visibility observations at the approach end of a runway which would allow B-47's to land safely, this made you aware immediately of the importance of your observations.**

**After the Air Force, I joined the then Weather Bureau in the observation program at Montgomery, Alabama. In the early 1960s, I was assigned to recruit, train, and monitor the Cooperative Observer Program for all of Alabama and the North half of Mississippi. During those years, weather radar didn't provide the same detailed measurements on rainfall amounts, etc. And weather satellites were not available at all! Therefore, the morning precipitation calls into the Weather offices by the cooperative observers were the lifeblood of the forecasting program, especially for flooding purposes along rivers and streams. The river stage forecasts were absolutely not made until the morning calls were received.**

**Today, your CoCoRaHS observations continue to provide vital information to an expanded group of users, vastly greater than fifty years ago. Your Intense Precipitation reports are very valuable, and could help save lives, because it could be the one report the forecaster is waiting for to trigger the decision to issue a flash flood warning for your area.**

**Later in my career, with continued study, I converted over to a meteorologist position and among other varied assignments, served as Chief of the Observations Branch of the Southern Region Headquarters in Ft. Worth, Texas. This position required me to interact with several different government agencies, as well as civilian companies, and the importance of the observations obtained through all means, (radar, aviation, upper air, cooperative program, volunteer ship observations) was reinforced on a daily basis. Precipitation and temperature observation records are used by business and industry to make decisions regarding relocating their companies to a particular section of the country.**

**So, to all of you who are giving a few minutes each day to record and report your observations, numerous users thank you, and I say, where were you when I was working years ago? One more thing, make sure you continue to provide an unobstructed location for your gage, sometimes we plant a small tree with rapid growth, and an overhanging limb could hamper the accuracy of your collection.**

**Dale Eubanks (Retired in Anchorage, Alaska 1993)**

**Redbank 3.4NNE**